

[Continued from first page.]
the resolutions reported by the majority of the committee.

The Clerk read the resolution of the majority, as follows:

"Resolved, That the sale of the military post of Fort Snelling, and so much of the reservation attached to it as was necessary for military purposes, made on the 6th day of June, 1857, under the authority of the Secretary of War, was then, and is now, a most reprehensible act of the authority of that Department, because necessary for military purposes, was without authority of law."

"2. That a sale was made by the Secretary of War, notwithstanding the opposition of the official opinion of his predecessor, Major Jefferson Davis, and of other officers in superior military command, to the contrary, without consulting with, or taking the advice, and with only the advice of a few persons, and at a very low rank, leaving the question of the constitutionality of that post to the discretion of the commissioners appointed to make the sale, and that this action on the part of the Secretary of War was a gross and palpable violation of the right of liberty to go round it; and that I will do the greatest possible injury to the cause of justice, of exposing my honest judgment, and if I do him wrong, I shall take pleasure in correcting it; that his complaint of the party action of the committee has not been made so much to ground his opposition to the sale, as to make it a trump-card to rally political friends to his support.

"3. I will, however, leave to the party considerations that will allow a matter of grave inquiry like this to be tried as a simple party question. Where there is crime in the state, the weakness of the offence, loss party, and becomes an immense public calamity. Parties cut loose from it, and their contentions are forgotten in the heat of the contest.

"4. That provision for and management of the sale were so negligently, carelessly, and injudiciously made, as to induce a successful combination against the Government, all combining and uniting on the post.

"5. That John C. Mathew, agent of the Department of War for the examination and sale of the Fort Ripley reservation, after having already joined a combination for the purchase of the Fort Snelling reservation, in making a purchase, in violation of his duty, did, and against the known policy of the Government, and that, as to him and Richard Schell, represented by him as agents, and Steele and Graham, as having a full knowledge of this official character, the sale of the Fort Snelling reservation was at the time and is now void."

Mr. PETTIT. I now ask the reading of the minority report proposed to be substituted by the majority.

The Clerk read, as follows:

"Resolved, That the recent sale of the military reservation at Fort Snelling, having been made by the Secretary of War, in violation of the laws of the United States, in strict conformity to law, and the evidence reported by the select committee having failed to exhibit any fact or circumstance tending, in the slightest degree, to impeach the fairness of sale of the property of any of the executive agents of the Government concerned in the same, or to exhibit any fact or circumstance which should make the sale a proper subject for the opinion and action of this House, it is ordered that the same be dismissed, and no further consideration of the subject, and that the report of the select committee be laid upon the table."

Mr. FAULKNER. I will say to the gentleman, that the resolution which accompanied the report of the minority has not been offered. I submitted two resolutions this morning.

Mr. PETTIT. I did not know that till now. Let the resolutions submitted by the gentleman from Illinois be read:

The Clerk read the resolutions, as follows:

"Resolved, That the evidence reported by the select committee has failed to exhibit any fact or circumstance, in connection with the recent sale of the military reservation at Fort Snelling, which in any degree, impeaches the fairness of the official integrity of the Secretary of War.

"Resolved, That all the other questions connected with said sale, suggested by the testifying, being made of executive agents of the Government, that may be called up in the administration of the Government, in its present hands. Those States were the first who, like the gentleman from Illinois, were compelled to be silent, it is but just to him to mention to the committee from Virginia that he was not in a position to support this claim.

"Resolved, That the leading policy of the Administration of Illinois is well known.

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